

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A plurality of data streams, which are coded by a convolution code and where coding rates and modulation systems are set respectively, and multiplexed in time division so that multiplex data are composed. A signal-to-noise ratio monitor measures the strength of the noise included in the multiplex data. A comparator outputs a post signal when a comparison indicates that the measured noise strength is equal to greater than a preset value. A multiplex control signal generator inputs an initialization signal into a Viterbi decoder at a timing at which decoding of individual data streams is started based on the received post signal. The Viterbi decoder initializes the calculated path metric upon receipt of the initialization signal.